

*Text of a statement issued by Defence Minister Peter MacKay's office Nov. 8:*

Two years ago, certain members of the Canadian Forces stationed at CFB Greenwood, filmed a video intended for their colleagues that featured inappropriate content and poor taste. As soon as my office became aware of the existence of this video, the video and its content were raised with the Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who, in turn, immediately commenced an investigation into the matter.

I await the results of that investigation.

However, I also want to be clear with Canadians and the Canadian Forces. Religious and cultural tolerance are important and necessary components of any national and professional institution, including the Canadian Forces, and I know the contents of this video do not represent the wider military community and its leadership.

Our government sent military members to Afghanistan to fight for freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Our government sent military members to the coasts and skies of Libya to help protect civilians from the brutality of the Gaddafi regime. Our government sent military members to Haiti to help a devastated people survive the aftermath of a massive earthquake. These operations have proven Canadian Forces members are Canadian heroes. And, like all of us, they are not infallible.

Thank you,  
Minister Peter MacKay.